



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Relief obtained from different sources:

New York diet kitchens, milk.....	84 quarts.
Straus depots, milk.....	83 quarts.
Bellevue Hospital, milk.....	42 quarts.
Bellevue Hospital, eggs.....	40 dozen.

Number of patients referred to hospitals, 18; entered hospitals, 7; 2 stayed only one day.

Number of patients referred by hospitals and visited:

By nurse in charge.....	0
By pupil nurses.....	8
Total	8

REMARKS.—Each nurse has three afternoons a week at clinic. Few patients can be persuaded to remain in hospitals long enough to derive much benefit—hence the importance of this instructive work in the homes. Good results are already apparent.

Respectfully submitted to the superintendent of the Bellevue Training-Schools.

———, Nurse in Charge.

WHAT REGISTRATION WILL DO FOR THE NURSING PROFESSION *

By REBECCA R. HALSEY

Germantown, Pa.

THE problems which are facing the nursing world at present are many, but for the benefit of those who have gathered at this third convention of the Graduate Nurses' Association of the State of Pennsylvania let me call your attention for a few moments to but one,—which is the ultimate object of this State Society,—that of "Legislation for Nurses."

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick says, "The nurse question is the woman's question, pure and simple," and that "we can only secure professional enfranchisement through State registration and self-government."

We know that the nurses of four States—to the north, east, and south of us—have, through the instrumentality of their State societies, secured protection and the elevation of trained nursing to a profession by means of this legislation, and we also know that the nurses of five more States are working for this same object, therefore we dare not sit with folded hands.

* Read at the meeting of the Pennsylvania State Nurses' Association held in Harrisburg, January, 1904.

Shall we the graduate nurses of Pennsylvania,—“the Keystone State,”—because of indifference or petty economy permit the work that was begun in Philadelphia last April to fall to the ground; or shall we stand united, ready, each, to do her share towards the building up of a perfect circle, so that when at last the “wedge” is placed, it may rest in such a solid foundation that no one can shake it down.

It must be exasperating to the leaders in any line of work to see about them those who could be their helpers, but who will not even try; and I feel that my paper would be in vain did I not urge upon each of you to study up the subject of “Legislation for Nurses” in other States, and be prepared at all times to speak as a missionary in your own cause. Emerson says: “If you act, you show character; if you sit still, you show it. You think because you have spoken nothing when others spoke, and have given no opinion on the times, that your verdict is still expected with curiosity—as a reserved wisdom. Far otherwise; your silence answers very loud. You have no oracle to utter, and your fellow-men have learned that you cannot help them.”

We are gathered together in this State association to provide for registration for nurses, for mutual help and protection, and for the advancement in every way of our professional work. We have in Pennsylvania some two thousand graduate nurses and more than one hundred hospitals which all employ graduate nurses, many of them giving a course of theoretical and practical instruction to women who spend at least eleven months of each year for three years—that is, thirty-three months—in study and work, with long hours for work and few for recreation, that they may be able intelligently to follow out a line of treatment for a suffering fellow-mortal in the absence of the physician.

In point of fact, the physician, whom we all honor, has given but one year more to the study of his profession, each year’s term being about eight months long, so that his entire time amounts to about thirty-two months.

Our doctors found their profession was being trampled upon by the Indian medicine men, travelling fakirs, etc., and that they and the public whom they serve must be protected by law, and with their recognition from the States came the elevation of the standard of their profession, a more uniform course of instruction, and the adoption of a four-years’ course of study in all schools, besides an official examination given by the “State Board of Medical Examiners” before they are qualified to practise medicine.

If the public needs to be protected from the spurious medicine man, is it not equally important that it be saved, and the nursing profession be protected, from the possible mistakes made by the woman

who will, without having passed within the doors of a hospital even, don a uniform and call herself a "trained nurse"?

Do we not need the protection that our State can give from just such advertisements as the following, that has been noticed by the writer in three of the popular magazines of the day: "*Be a nurse. We teach you by mail. Steady employment at a large salary always awaits the thoroughly competent nurse. We teach you the most advanced ideas by modern methods,*" etc.

Surely the "Sairey Gamps" have had their day,—they did their best, and some of them were faithful old souls,—but the modern methods and modern surgery has only been made possible by the modern trained nurse.

We believe that every woman should know at least the simpler methods of caring for the sick that she may be a help and comfort in the home—for in such ministrations she will neither injure her professional sisters nor do harm to her fellow-men. But let us who are members of the Graduate Nurses' Association of the State of Pennsylvania look forward and ever upward. Let us aim to deal justly and act wisely, and so prove to the lawgivers of our State that we are worthy of their protection. Then will the standard of our profession be elevated and not overcrowded; then will our good name be protected and the graduate nurse who dons a uniform and stands side by side with the physician, whether it be at the bedside of the wealthy or in the hovel of the destitute, will feel that she carries with her the sterling mark of quality, remembering always that "To whom much is given, much is required."

A WRITER'S REQUEST OF HIS MASTER.—"Lord, let me never tag a moral to a story, nor tell a story without a meaning. Make me respect my material so much that I dare not slight my work. Help me to deal very honestly with words and with people because they are both alive. Show me that, as in a river, so in a writing, clearness is the best quality, and a little that is pure is worth more than much that is mixed. Teach me to see the local color without being blind to the inner light. Give me an ideal that will stand the strain of weaving into human stuff on the loom of the real. Keep me from caring more for books than for folks, for art than for life. Steady me to do my full stint of work as well as I can, and when that is done, stop me, pay me what wages Thou wilt, and help me to say, from a quiet heart, a grateful Amen."—HENRY VAN DYKE.